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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**MEXICAN DRUG KINGPIN SENTENCED
ALONG WITH COCONSPIRATOR FOR
\$156 MILLION METH TRAFFICKING BUSINESS**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that conspiracy leader RAMON MONTERO, 29, Veracruz, Mexico, and Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 19 years and 7 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine with a street value of \$13 million a month. Also sentenced to 11 years and 3 months following his guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine was ENRIQUE RINCON, 24, Tijuana, Mexico, and Indianapolis, Indiana. This case was the result of a four-month investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau

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of Investigation, United States Customs Service, Indiana State Police, Indianapolis Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Department, and Hamilton County Sheriff's Department.

MONTERO was the kingpin of a high-volume methamphetamine trafficking organization operating in Indianapolis. MONTERO coordinated the receipt of methamphetamine from California and the distribution of the methamphetamine in Indianapolis. MONTERO's associates transported the methamphetamine in pure form from California in hidden compartments contained in various vehicles. MONTERO and his associates then "cut" the methamphetamine with dimethylsulfone, a bronchial dilator used for horses, after its arrival in Indianapolis. MONTERO's drug distributors then distributed the methamphetamine in Indianapolis. RINCON was a drug courier and methamphetamine distributor in this organization which trafficked approximately 300 pounds of methamphetamine per month in the Indianapolis area from the summer of 2001 through December 6, 2002.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed five years supervised release following MONTERO and RINCON's imprisonments. However, both will be deported from the United States upon completion their prison sentences.

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